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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WHAT THE VOTE INDICATES

SIR,—Your analysis of the 1914 vote, and what it indicates as to the strength of the parties and as a pointer for 1916, is highly interesting and instructive. It seems to demonstrate that President Wilson has no strong personal popularity among the people. The party is still the minority party, and its only rational hope of winning in 1916 is a continued division of the Progressives and Republicans—or some complication growing out of war conditions that will unite the nation regardless of domestic politics.

With a fairly progressive attitude by the Republicans it is a political certainty that practically all the Progressives will have returned to the Republican fold. With that condition prevailing, the Democratic party will drop back to its old position in the rear rank. The 1914 election has made it clear that it can hope for no accessions. It can hardly hope for such luck as to be twice in succession elected as a minority party.

Aside from these deductions, kindly permit me to call your attention to some other features of the vote which demonstrate that the Democratic strength in the electoral college and in Congress is not based on popular support. Comparing the vote in all Democratic States with the vote in eleven Republican States, as shown by your tables, this anomalous condition is shown:

	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes	Average Popular Vote to Each Electoral Vote
D.—Alabama . . . . .	12	79,972	6,664
R.—Minnesota . . . . .	12	292,524	24,376
D.—Arkansas . . . . .	9	44,671	4,463
R.—West Virginia . . . . .	8	222,215	27,776
D.—Florida . . . . .	6	22,761	3,790
R.—North Dakota . . . . .	5	81,079	16,215
D.—Louisiana . . . . .	10	49,412	4,941
R.—Kansas . . . . .	10	474,007	47,400
D.—South Carolina . . . . .	9	32,950	3,295
R.—Connecticut . . . . .	7	163,920	23,417
D.—Mississippi . . . . .	10	36,060	3,606
R.—Iowa . . . . .	13	388,141	29,857
D.—Texas . . . . .	20	173,177	8,658
R.—Ohio . . . . .	24	1017,366	42,390
D.—Virginia . . . . .	12	82,184	6,922
R.—Michigan . . . . .	15	373,307	24,867

	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes .	Average Popular Vote to Each Electoral Vote
D.—Georgia . . . . .	14	205,652	14,689
R.—New Jersey . . . . .	14	362,841	25,817
D.—North Carolina . . . . .	12	211,477	17,620
R.—Massachusetts . . . . .	18	442,155	24,564
D.—Tennessee . . . . .	12	184,144	15,337
R.—Illinois . . . . .	29	967,091	33,348

## SUMMARY:

11 Democratic States with . . . . .	126	1,121,660	8,902
8 (Omitting Ga., Tenn., and N. C.)	88	520,387	5,913
11 Republican States with . . . . .	154	4,784,646	31,069

What do these figures mean? That in Democratic strongholds only a small fraction of the people participate in the Government; while the reverse is true in Republican States. That in the election of Presidents, one vote in Alabama counts as much as four votes in Minnesota; one vote in Arkansas counts as much as six votes in West Virginia; one vote in Florida equals five votes in North Dakota; one vote in Louisiana balances ten votes in Kansas; one vote in South Carolina equals seven votes in Connecticut; one vote in Mississippi bulks as large as eight votes in Iowa, etc., etc.

In Congress a similar discrepancy exists as to the number of votes each member represents. To this amazing difference are added two other elements, which emphasize the differences in the power of a vote in different sections of the country. Owing to the solidarity of the Southern vote, it dominates the Democratic party; and owing to the absence of political activity in those States the same representatives are returned for many years in succession. Under the rule of promotion by seigniority it happens that the chairmanships of committees under a Democratic organization of Congress goes in disproportionate numbers to this group of members elected by a handful of votes.

Thus we find Congress dominated by members whose voting constituency is a negligible quantity. To call such a Government a Government of the people is a violent and dangerous stretch of the imagination. Yet, for this condition, the Democratic party would have been dead and buried fifty years ago.

That this condition of government without popular participation should continue without interruption for half a century must appear as a reflection on our form of government. And the most serious phase of the question is that in this zone there is an effectual blockade against all forms of political activity looking toward the exercise of individual judgment of public questions. No national campaign is ever carried on in those sacred precincts; there exists no free press worthy of note. One side only of political questions is discussed on the platform or in the newspapers. The only agitation of a political nature arises from personal contests for public office between candidates of the same political party. That the people of these States are not of one mind is attested by the insignificance of the vote cast. Can a more perfect travesty on popular government be imagined? Yet this condition is the bulwark, the 42-centimeter gun, of the Democratic party.

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